NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS NEWS DESK

CASE IS PREPARED AGAINST THE NIGHT ASSEMBLIES BILL

Canterbury replacement site has been found

GREAT WESTERN FESTIVALS — the company headed by actor Stanley Baker and Lord Harlech, that was to have promoted festivals at Canterbury at Whitsun and August Bank Holiday — is preparing a case against the Night Assemblies Bill, which is currently being rushed through Parliament. They are proposing what they describe as a "credible alternative", laying down provisos for the organisation of festivals, and they are asking other festival promoters to support them.

They intend to distribute their case to the Press and amongst MPs, in order to gain both sympathy and action. Great Western's alternative lays down certain principles including the necessity of well-appointed sites, full co-operation with local authorities and police, and fair treatment for the participants.

A spokesman told the NME: "We are determined to show there is a festival industry, prepared to commit itself to running well-organised festivals. We consider the Night Assemblies Bill to be unreasonable — it gives powers of discrimination, and is a weapon of the privileged classes. Obviously there has to be some control over festivals, and this is what we are submitting — but the Bill in its present form goes much too far."

Meanwhile, Great Western are pressing ahead with their plans to stage two festivals at Whitsun and August Bank Holiday. Now that they have given a guarantee not to hold the events within 20 miles of Bishopsbourne, Canterbury, the organisers have found an alternative site — and it is NOT in Kent. Said the spokesman: "We have done our homework very well, and this time there cannot possibly be any complaint about our choice of venue."

● *Clive Landa, newly-elected Chairman of the Greater London Young Conservatives, has called on members to lobby their MPs and candidates on the Night Assemblies Bill. He announced that he is writing to William Whitelaw, the Lord President, to secure his assistance in obtaining either the amendment or withdrawal of this Private Members Bill.*

● *As we closed for press, it was learned that the Weeley Festival may go ahead at August Bank Holiday weekend after all — but at a different site from last year's event. An alternative site has been found, and complications are now being "ironed out".*

The now-defunct original line-up of MUNGO JERRY, comprising (left to right) PAUL KING, RAY DORSET, COLIN EARL and JOHN GODFREY.

Mungo Jerry re-shuffled

KING AND EARL QUIT

A MAJOR re-organisation has taken place in the line-up and policy of Mungo Jerry. Singer-banjoist Paul King and pianist Colin Earl have left the outfit to form their own group. But Ray Dorset and bassist John Godfrey are to continue, adding a new keyboard player and — for the first time — a drummer. Dorset and Godfrey are at present rehearsing with the new musicians, whose names will be announced shortly — although they have already played a preview gig together at Leicester University last Saturday.

The re-shaped band will still be retaining some of the group's old flavour, but Mungo's music will develop into a slightly heavier rock'n-'roll idiom. Commented Ray Dorset: "The band has got harder, funkier and more aggressive, but we shall still be playing some of our old hits." A new maxi-single is being recorded and will be released by Dawn within the next four weeks.

Because of "administration difficulties", Mungo will not now be touring with Freddie King in March. Instead, a new tour has been set up, with Jericho as supporting attraction on most dates. For full venues, see page 26.

Paul King and Colin Earl, together with guitarist Dave Lambert, have formed King Earl Boogie Band and will shortly be adding another two musicians to the line-up. The group is currently rehearsing and plans to be on the road later this month. It will feature authentic blues and original material penned by Paul King.

Beach Boys add two

THE BEACH BOYS have become a septet with the addition of two new members. They have been joined by coloured musicians Blondie Chaplin (guitar) and Ricky Fataar (drums), both of whom were previously with South African group Flame — the outfit which supported the Beach Boys in their last British concerts.

Russ Mackie, communications director for the Beach Boys, told the NME that the group is expected to sign a new recording deal within the next week. Negotiations are taking place with several companies, with Apple favourite to secure the Beach Boys. As soon as a deal is finalised, a new single titled "When I'm Over My Shoulder" will be issued.

HARUM TOUR TIES IN WITH NEW LP

PROCOL HARUM commence a short British tour at Salford University tomorrow (Friday), then play Leeds University (Saturday). The tour is a prelude to the release in late March of the outfit's new album, recorded live in Canada last November during Harum's last tour of North America, which marked the debut of new guitarist Dave Ball and bassist Alan Cartwright. The album features Procol with the 56-piece Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and the 24-piece Da Camera Singers.

● REMAINING DATES ON PAGE 26.

Scaffold's McGear heads college tour

SCAFFOLD member Mike McGear has signed a long-term recording deal with Island, and has his debut album for the label released on March 24 — it is a collection of tracks written and performed by McGear called "Norman", and the title track is being issued the same day as a single. Personnel on the LP include Zoot Money, Brian Auger, Gerry Conway and Ginger Johnson's Drums.

McGear is to head an evening of poetry and music — titled "Grimms" — which will tour the college circuit this month. Other members of Scaffold will take part in the tour, as well as Liverpool poets, Adrian Henri, Brian Patten, Neil Innes, Zoot Money, Mike Giles and "an assorted collection of freaks". FULL DATES ON PAGE 26.

STEVE STILLS CONCERT OFF

STEPHEN STILLS' concert scheduled for Manchester Belle Vue on March 29, has been cancelled. The NME understands that Stills is going to Australia to appear in a festival, and intends to stay on there for a while. But promoters John and Tony Smith are hopeful of fixing British concerts by Stills either in the late spring or early summer.

Moodies Wembley concert

THE MOODY BLUES are to star in a concert at the 10,000-seater Wembley Empire Pool on Saturday, April 22. There will be one show only — commencing at 7.30 p.m. — and all tickets are priced at 50p. They are on sale at Harlequin record shops on a first-come first-served basis, ensuring that early applicants secure the best seats, as in the case of the T. Rex concert at Wembley on March 18. Promoters of the Moodies' concert are Colin Berlin and Barry Clayan of MAM.

ELTON MEETS MAGGIE

ELTON JOHN pictured with PRINCESS MARGARET and LORD SNOWDON after his benefit show at London's Shaw Theatre last Sunday.

GROUPS in the NEWS

ASHTON, GARDNER, DYKE & CO. play a concert in Switzerland on March 10, followed by a 2½-week tour of Germany. The outfit commences a five-week U.S. tour in Alabama on March 30.

PATTO, currently touring Scandinavia and Germany with Ten Years After, have been signed by Island to a three-year six-album deal and will be produced by Muff Winwood. After completing European dates, Patto will undertake a month-long tour of Britain with Heads, Hands And Feet.

MANFRED MANN'S Earth Band is set for a visit to Australia from April 18 to May 8. Throughout June the outfit will be touring Europe visiting Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

EDGAR BROUGHTON BAND headline a six-day tour of Norway from March 15, and undertake a six-week debut tour of America starting in May.

MAN BEAST is the name of a new group formed by Gerry Edmonton and Goldie McJohn, two of the ex-members of Steppenwolf which — as reported last week — has now disbanded.

BIG NAMES BOOKED FOR THE OXFORD FESTIVAL

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON, Shirley Bassey, Ralph McTell and Nana Mouskouri are among the attractions set for the 1972 Oxford International Week — the first event of its kind to be held in that city — which impresario Robert Paterson has lined up. The event, planned as the first of an annual series, will be staged at the Oxford New Theatre from Sunday, May 7, to the following Sunday (14).

So far set for the festival are Kris Kristofferson (May 7), Cleo Laine and the John Dankworth Quartet (9), Shirley Bassey (10), Ralph McTell and Mary Hopkin (11) and Nana Mouskouri (14). Other attractions have still to be confirmed for May 12 and 13.

TONY CHRISTIE ABROAD

TONY CHRISTIE flew to Germany today (Thursday) to star in a televised concert in Dortmund. Next Wednesday (8), he opens a seven-week tour of South Africa. Christie has been booked as a guest attraction in the Mexico Song Festival in Acapulco in mid-May.

Bassey: major American tour

SHIRLEY BASSEY sets out on her first-ever major concert tour of the United States this Sunday (5) at the Philadelphia Academy of Music. The tour runs for a month and ends at Los Angeles Concert Music Centre on April 2. Shirley will also appear on the David Frost, Mike Douglas, Dick Cavett and Merv Griffin TV shows.

..EXTRA SHOW BY REX

BECAUSE OF the enormous demand for tickets for the T. Rex show at Wembley Empire Pool on Saturday, March 18, a second performance has now been set. The 8.30 show is already a complete sell-out, and Rex will now play an earlier show at the same venue at 5.30 p.m. As with the original concert, all tickets are priced at 75p and are obtainable from Harlequin record shops — or by post from Harlequin, 67 Great Titchfield Street, London W.1.

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